Num. 957

The Caledonian Mercury.

Edinburgh, Thurſday, June 2, 1726.

From the Poſt Man, May 26.

Paris, May 28.

HOrace Walpole, Eſq; the Britiſh Ambaſſador, is at length arrived here, after having been obliged to ſtop on the Road by Indiſpoſition, which ſtill confines him to his Chamber; ſo that as yet he ſees very little Company beſides the Duke of Bourbon. The Engliſh Fleet is in ſuch a Condition to ſpread Terror in the Baltick, that 'tis very much queſtioned whether the Ruſſians will dare to face it. Frequent Expreſſes are ſent from hence to Germany and the North; and 'tis ſaid that a Reſolution has been taken to ſend a powerful Reinforcement to the King of Great Britain as Elector of Hanover, and to the King of Pruſſia, in caſe the Emperor of Germany ſhould act againſt them.

Stockholm, May 15. The Ruſſian Miniſter here has acquainted the King and Senate, that his Miſtris the Czarina intends to ſend part of her Fleet to Sea, but with no other Deſign than to exerciſe her Mariners, and not to give the leaſt Diſturbance to the Peace of the North; and therefore ſhe deſires that in Caſe of Need, her Ships may be permitted to come into our Harbours.

From the Whitehall Evening-Poſt, May 26.

Paris, May 28. Some of our Merchants who have Effects on board the Spaniſh Galleons, fearing to be intercepted by the Engliſh Squadron which is ſailed to America, went to the Count de Morville, Secretary, to confer with him about it; who gave them an Anſwer which made them very eaſy. Yeſterday our Stocks roſe upon the News of 6 India Ships richly laden being arrived in the Ports of Bretagne. And this Day Premiums are given to deliver it at the Rate of 750 Livres by the 1ſt of *Sept.* next.

Francfort, May 26. The Grand Duke of Tuſcany has reſolved to obſerve an exact Neutrality, and takes proper Meaſures to keep all Foreign Troops out of his Dominions, without Exception.

London, May 26. Yeſterday the Marquis de Pozzobueno, the Spaniſh Ambaſſador, was at Court.

We hear that ſeveral Lords and Gentlemen of the Parliament, lately received by the Dutch Poſt, Copies of a Pamphlet printed at the Hague in 4to, containing 20 Pages, ſaid to be written by a Friend to the Houſe of Auſtria, intituled, *A Letter to a certain Member of Parliament, about the Addreſſes preſented by both Houſes to the King on the* 18*th and* 19*th of January laſt, and the Debates that happened thereupon.*

From the St. James's Evening-Poſt, May 26.

Vienna, May 11. Laſt Week the Emperor appointed Minheer James Vermoin, a Native of Antwerp, Conſul of the German and Flemiſh Nations at Cadiz. We are told there's a new Order coming out, to forbid the Importation of Indian Stuffs into his Imperial Majeſty's Dominions, with Intent to favour the Sale of theſe brought over in the Oſtend Company's Ships; the Directors whereof are to have the ſole Right to import ſuch Goods.

'Tis ſaid the Turkiſh Aga who is coming hither, has it in Command to build a Houſe for lodging the Merchants of his Nation who come to the Fairs of this Country; and that he is to demand the Settlement of a Conſul here, upon the ſame Foot as the Foreign Miniſters reſiding at Conſtantinople. A Fund of 400,000 Florins is provided for finiſhing the new Fortifications of Belgrade, which the Emperor deſigns to make the ſtrongeſt Place in Europe before two Years are at an End.

From Miſt's Weekly Journal, May 21.

Mr. Miſt,

IT may be very well worth the Obſervation of this preſent Age, in which ſuch enormous Crimes do daily break out, That even when Patriarchical Government, and the Controul of Fathers over their Families, was the ſtrongeſt Conſtraint upon Mankind, Marriage was inſtituted with ſuch Sanctity, and the Woman conſider'd ſo much the Bone and Fleſh of her Husband, that, as the Text tells us, therefore *ſhould a Man leave his Father and Mother, and cleave unto his Wife, and they ſhould be one Fleſh.* Hearts and Hands were then join'd with all the Sentiments of Affection, Tenderneſs and Innocence requiſite to make the State of Wedlock happy, as it was intended: And a Series of Ages roll'd on, before any Breach of Faith was diſcovered in unwarrantable Embraces.

I doubt not but the first Woman who betray'd the Right of her Husband's Bed, was lookt upon as a Prodigy, and detested as a Monster of Infamy. When Examples grow frequent, it was Time for Law to interpose a Coertion, and to make the *Practice* scandalous by the *Punishment*. Among the Inflictions that were laid on the fair Sex for this Trespass of Adultery, there were some that would be very grievous at this Day. The Delinquents were not allowed to keep a Maid, to wear rich Clothes, or appear at publick Solemnities. Another Part of the Sentence might be born, perhaps, with more Christian Patience, I mean that of being forbid to enter within the Church Doors.

Now I am touching upon these *Athenian* Laws, I cann't help mentioning a Circumstance, which is told us by *Cicero*, concerning that wise Republick. *Solon*, in his whole Body of Laws, had made no Provision for punishing the Crime of *Parricide*; and being asked the Reason, he replied, the Provision was unnecessary, for he could not imagine that a Child would ever kill his Parent. 'Tis certainly as unreasonable to suspect, that a Wife should ever take it into her Head to murder her Husband.

Antiquity indeed has furnished some Instances of outragious Females, that have been their Husbands Executioners; yet whenever this has happened, a colourable Excuse has been thrown in, to give a Gloss of Reason to the daring Action. The Fifty Daughters of *Danaus*, I think, are Authorities of the oldest Date: But then their very Marriage was a Force, a Rape at least upon their Inclinations; and they had the Devil's Oracle to bear them out in getting rid of their Ravishes. *Clytemnestra*, who has been the Mark of Reproach for so many Ages, did not want her Pretences to palliate the Guilt of Blood. And *Agamemnon* was not dispatched by her to make room for her Adulterer *Ægysthus*, but to revenge the Death of her Daughter *Iphigenia*, whom the Father had sacrificed, under the Colour of sending for her to be married.

The Advocates for *Modern Improvement*, I'm afraid, must be obliged to allow, that we out-strip our simple Ancestors in these Circumstances of Caution. Our Women now, whenever they lift the Knife against their Husband, do not consult to defend themselves with Pretexts to make it necessary; but are content to say, either *that the Devil is busy with them*; or to found a Provocation for some trivial *Misusage*, or being stinted in the Necessaries of Life. As to the Devil's Share in the Business, I shall leave it to the Divines; but I wish heartily, when the other Pleas come to be lookt into, it do not appear that the objected *Misusage* is too often drawn upon the Parties by their own *provoking Conduct*; and what they call *Necessaries*, may more properly be stil'd *unreasonable Superfluities*.

It was the best Excuse, I think, Mris. *Hayes*, who so lately suffered the Rigour of the Law, gave for her execrable Action, That her Husband *beat*, and almost *starved* her. These, indeed, if true, had been Circumstances of great Clamour on her Side, had she not made such dreadful *Reprisals* upon her Husband: But to believe them true, we must suppose her a Woman of more Patience than can be easily allowed, to cohabite with a plentiful Husband for near 20 Years in a starving Condition. How pardonable a Trespass might she have made in Elopment, which would have been justified by her Complaints, and attempt to provide herself by honest Industry! But, unhappily for her self, and to the eternal Blast of her Memory, Counsels of Malice rather than Justification, took place with her. I am entitled to say this, as her Crime was *Petit Treason*; and that the Law defines to be, where one, out of Malice, takes away the Life of a Subject to whom he oweth special Obedience.

Her Case is too notoriously known to be insisted upon here in all its Circumstances; some of them are almost too horrid for Imagination; that she should be six Weeks working up two Villains to a Resolution of the Fact; that a false Appearance of Mirth and Pleasure should be made Use of as an Instrument to it; that the poor Man should be drank down by his designed Murderers, to prevent any Resistence; and that she should assist after the Stroak given, in dismembring the Trunk, and disposing of the mangled Limbs, to seal up the Eyes of Discovery.

There is something very hideous in a Woman's putting her own Son upon so execrable an Office; but how much more monstrous is it, when the Son is employed to dispatch his Father, that he may fill his Place, with the less Interruption, in his Mothers Embraces! *Rumour* and *Circumstances* have thrown this Aggravation to Mris. *Hayes* Iniquity; but I would willingly presume it a Scandal, and out of the Limits of Credibility. Nature has so finely guarded, that we seldom have an Apetite to break into the Lines of *Incestuous* Consanguinity. Mothers seldom sigh for their Sons, or Sisters for their Brothers, with *Irregular* Desires: Seldom, I say; for there is no Rule without Exceptions, and hardly an Age without its *Monsters*. I shall conclude this Discourse with a remarkable Instance of such unnatu-

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ral Affection in a Mother; in a Hiſtory delivered to us among the Writings of Mr. *Perkins*, and from them tranſcrib'd in the IX. Volume of *Spectators*, No. 688, viz.

A Gentlewoman of great Note, being left a Widow, had her Son train'd up in her Houſe; who being come to an Age of Maturity, grew up, as in Stature, ſo in wanton Deſires; earneſtly ſoliciting her Chamber-maid to comply with his Inclination. She had the Grace not only to repell his Offers, but, wearied out with his wicked Importunity, to complain to her Miſtreſs of her young Maſter's Irregularity. The Mother, out of a Purpoſe to repreſs this wild Humour in her Son, bids the Maid make an Appointment the Night following, and that ſhe would change Beds with the Maid, and task the young Man to ſome Purpoſe. This done, (is ſuch a horrid Story to be told?) the Devil temted the Mother, and (as terrible it is to hear) inſtead of chaſtiſing him, ſuffered herſelf to be embraced in his Arms, and by him conceived a Daughter. Finding herſelf grow big, weighed down with inward Shame, to hinder it from appearing, ſhe ſecretly retired to a diſtant Country---- and left the Child there, to be educate with Care and Secrecy. In ſome Years ſhe thought proper to bring home the conceal'd Infant as a Kinſwoman. The young Virgin grew up to ſuch a Degree of Comelineſs in Perſon and Behaviour, that the Son, ſtill a ſingle Man, and now of about one or two and thirty, fell paſſionately in Love with her, and in ſhort, ignorantly married his own Daughter. They liv'd together very lovingly and comfortably, and were the Parents of many Children. But the Mother, who knew all, had a whole Hell in her Boſom; and one Day, ſtung with more than ordinary Remorſe, and bitterly gnaw'd with the Worm of Conſcience, ſhe flew to the learn'd Divine who wrote this Story, an eminent Caſuiſt for Relief, and asked, whether ſhe ſhould not put an end to that Courſe of Sin by revealing the Matter? The Divine was of Opinion, That as they had lived innocently in their *Ignorance*, ſhe ſhould repent in ſecret, and conceal the Buſineſs. *I am, &c.*

From a Written Letter, May 26.

They write from Bruſſels of the 29th Inſtant, N. S. That ſeveral Jacobites and Adherents to the Pretender in that City, give out that their Affairs will ſoon take a favourable Turn.

'Tis aſſured that the Emperor had the chief Hand in ſeizing the Duke de Riperda, having ſent Advice to his Catholick Majeſty of ſome underhand Dealings of the ſaid Duke, whoſe Refuge to the Britiſh Ambaſſador occaſions many Speculations.

London, May 26. This Day a Chapter of the Garter was held, at which the Duke of Richmond and Sir Robert Walpole, were elected Knights of that moſt Noble Order.

Wye's Letter, verbatim, May 28.

Since our laſt arrived a Dutch and Flanders Mail.

LAſt Night arrived the Mail due from Holland.

Advices from Madrid relate, that the King of Spain has aſſured Count Coningſeck, That what had happened with Relation to the D. de Riperda, ſhould not make any Alterations in the Meaſures which he had taken with the Emperor; and that the Engagements he had entered into with the Court of Vienna, ſhould be punctually performed. His Majeſty has alſo given the like Aſſurances to the Emperor by a Letter wrote with his own Hand. ſo that it ſeems by what is above, there is little liklihood of a Turn to be given to Affairs, as ſome believed would enſue upon the Removal of the Duke de Riperda. But notwithſtanding of the inviolable Union betwixt the Courts of Vienna and Madrid, and the large Offers made by them to induce the King of Sardinia and other Powers to enter into their Meaſures, they'll never be able to execute their dangerous Schemes, *in Oppoſition to the Powers united* (as his Majeſty juſtly obſerves) *in Defence of the Tranquillity and Liberty of Europe.*

We have Account that Admiral Wager, whoſe Squadron lies in the Scheren of Sweden, is gone to Stockholm to make Propoſitions to the King and Senate of the laſt Importance, to engage them to accede to the Hanover Treaty; That the Daniſh Squadron ſailed the 25th Inſt. but that the Ruſſian Fleet lies ſtill in Harbour.

Hague, June 2. The States General aſſembled extraordinarily aſſembled laſt Thurſday, and afterwards ſent an Expreſs to their Ambaſſador at Madrid; where the D. de Riperda's Papers are under Inſpection. And 'tis ſaid Orders are ſent to Vienna for ſecuring his Son and ſealing up his Papers.

We hear from Stockholm, that aſſoon as Admiral Wager is returned on board, and is joined by the Daniſh Squadron, they will proceed to the Side of Petersburg, in order to make a Propoſition to that Court.

From Copenhagen 'tis adviſed, that an Ordinance has been publiſhed there, declaring, That ſuch of the King's Subjects as have entred into Foreign

rrign Service, and ſhall draw their Sword againſt their Country, ſhall, if taken, ſuffer Death. 'Tis ſaid the K. of Poland will take a Journey to Riga, to have an Interview with the Empreſs of Ruſſia; to whom his Majeſty lately ſent the Order of the *White Eagle*, and a Croſs ſet with Diamonds.

They write from Dublin of the 21ſt, that the Preſs is very hot there for Seamen to man the Fleet of G. Britain; That on the Day before the Date, one Battallion of the Royal Scots were put on board ſome Tranſports for England; and that 6 Regiments of Foot were under March to the Sea-ports, likewiſe to be tranſported to England; and General Maccartney is to return with and ſee them embark on board the Fleet, for ſome Expedition.

It will not be long before we ſhall be informed whether the Courts of Sweden and Muſcovy, are diſpoſed to accept of the Propoſals made by Admiral Wager. Mean Time nothing can render Negociations more ſucceſsful, that that of treating them with Sword in Hand. We hear Sir John Jennings, who Commands the Squadron, deſigned, as is ſuppoſed for the Mediterranean, has taken his Leave of the King.

Whether the Time is elapſed for the D. of Wharton to return to his Obedience to his Majeſty, we know not; but his Grace's Goods at his late Seat at Winchendon in Buckinghamſhire, are now upon the Sale; and that the Earl of Godolphin is going to reſide there.

What Diſcoveries have been made from the Duke de Riperda's Papers, we know not, but there is Advice that he is removed to Mr. Stanhope's Houſe, and confined for the preſent in the Caſtle of Segovia. The Duke of York from East India has brought over beſides other Goods 826000 Pound Weight of Coffee. The great Doings at Court for his Majeſty's Birthday is put off till Monday.

From the Evening Poſt, May 28.

Madrid, May 13. John Baptiſt d'Orendain, Marquis de la Paiz, had Yeſterday a Conference for 3 Hours with C. Coningſeck; who complained that the D. de Riperda had not remitted to Vienna the Subſidies he had promiſed in the Name of his Catholick Majeſty.

They write from Cadiz, that on the 6th Inſt. 4 Spaniſh Fregats from 24 to 48 Guns, ſailed thence for the W. Indies, having on board 400 Land-forces, and ſo deeply loaded with Artillery, Ammunition, and ſmall Arms, that they cannot put out their low Tear of Guns. Four Men of War are expected from Biſcay; 3 others, one of 60, the other 2 of 54 Guns each, are fitting out behind the Puntals.

Hamburg, May 31. Letters from Petersburg ſay the Ruſſian Fleet is cruiſing along the Coaſt of Finland, and is to ſail to Revel aſſoon as the Court is there, in order to take on board the Duke of Holſtein. The Public is very impatient to know, what new Aſpect the State of Affairs will take ſhortly in the North.

London, May 28. S. S. Stock, 100, &c.

From the Whitehall Evening Poſt, May 28.

Hague, June 4. They write from Madrid, That Colonel Stanhope has repreſented to the K. of Spain, that ſince the Treaty of Utrecht, the Spaniards have taken above 40 French Ships; for which the King his Maſter demands Satisfaction, and that in caſe of Refuſal, he would make Repriſals.

Hamburg, May 28. They write from Lublo, that the Maſter of a Dutch Ship arrived there, reports, that he ſaw the Ruſſian Fleet, conſiſting of 46 Sail, coaſting along Finland.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

†‖† Theſe are to give Notice to the Creditors of the deceaſt James Hogg, late Baillie and Portioner of Dalkeith, and James Hogg his Son, That the ſaid James Hogg has granted a Diſpoſition in favours of Samuel Macleſſan Litſter in Dalkeith, and Andrew Madder Vintner there, for themſelves, and as Truſtees for his other Creditors, of his two Tenements in Dalkeith, and ſix Acres of arable Land there, to the End they may ſell and diſpoſe thereof, for Payment of the Debts reſting by the ſaids James Hoggs elder and younger, to their ſeveral Creditors; and the Creditors are deſired to give in their Grounds of Debt and Diligence, to James Miln Clerk of Dalkeith. And ſuch as incline to purchaſe either of theſe Tenements or Acres, may ſee the Rights and Progreſs in the ſaid James Miln's Hands, 'twixt and the 4th of July next, at which Time the ſaids Houſes and Acres are to be ſold by publick Roup, either jointly or ſeparately. And the Conditions of Roup and yearly Rental may be ſeen as above any Time before the Roup, which is to be at the ſaid James Miln's Houſe at 3 a-clock after Noon, the ſaid 4th of July next.

¶†¶ That the Arbitrators in the Submiſſion of the Earl of NORTHESK's Creditors, have appointed a general Meeting of the Creditors at John's Coffee-houſe in Edinburgh, on Friday the 10th of June Inſt. at three of the Clock in the Afternoon, that a Matter of Importance may be concerted before them, and for that Purpoſe, the Creditors or their Doers are deſired to attend.

EDINBURGH: Printed for Mr. *William Rolland*, by Mr. *Thomas Ruddiman*. Sold at the Printing-houſe in Morocco's Cloſs in the Lawn-market; where Advertiſements and Subſcriptions are taken in, as alſo at the Shop of Mr. Alexander Symmer, Bookſeller in the Parliament-Cloſs.